



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Interoperability Montana Project Directors Meeting

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The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on Tues., March 4. IMPD Chair Alan Michaels introduced the new IMPD Vice Chair, Joe Brenneman, Flathead County Commissioner. Members heard reports from the Frequency, Finance, and Retreat Sub-Committees. The call for Second Vice Chair election was delayed to the next board meeting.

Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, reported on the process of filing for the IM Project's non-profit status. He indicated there are some issues related to describing the relationship of tribes to the Interlocal Agreements as well as the status of the Mobile Data Terminal Consortium.

Bill Fleiner distributed a handout on four objectives that the staffing sub-committee is working on. Cindy Mullaney reported that the Fleet Mapping Sub-Committee is now meeting the Wednesday morning after the IMPD meeting. Bill Fleiner will be appointing individuals to a business practices sub-committee to address Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and he asked for volunteers.

The IMPD heard a report on the IM Network Design. Harris-Stratex needs to perform site path analysis and conduct a site audit, and the IMPD approved using state PSIC grant matching monies in advance of grant approval to facilitate timely completion. Dennis Espeland, Northrop Grumman, introduced Ron Baldwin, who is leading the effort to complete the security plan. Funds cannot be released until the state is assured that systems are protected both electronically and physically. Dennis presented an overview of the IM Project, explaining budget issues and risks to the project. Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reviewed Decision/Information Requests (DIRs). The IMPD reviewed an Action Item list that will be used as a tracking tool.

The IMPD formally approved the New Subscriber Unit Acceptance Criteria. The criteria are intended to provide a baseline to ensure that subscriber units perform appropriately on the IM System with basic functions. It was reported that funds have been released, pending completion of the security plan for the Second Master Control Site. Bids for an independent study were solicited, but they are too high.

IMPD Chair Alan Michaels formally re-appointed Bill Fleiner as Chair of both the IM Governance Committee and the Statement of Work Committee, in accordance with the bylaws. He also appointed Bob McWilliams as Chair of the IM Technical Committee.

Dan Sullivan, DES, reported on FY08 Homeland Security funding, and indicated that funding will be considerably less than in previous years.

A closed session was held to review the draft Statement of Work RFP for project management.

The next meeting is set for Tues., April 1 at the State Capitol in Helena.

IM Retreat Planning Session

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Members of the IM Retreat Planning Sub-Committee met in Billings on Mon., March 10 review facilities and finalize the agenda. Erin Lee, a facilitator with the National Governor's Association, assisted with the planning session. The retreat will be held at the end of the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit beginning the afternoon of Thurs. April 24 and Fri., April 25 until 3:00 pm at the Holiday Inn in Billings.

The IM Project is anticipating that each consortium will have one representative from each of the jurisdictions represented in the consortium as well as at least one county commissioner from each jurisdiction. Sheriffs, police chiefs, fire chiefs and other opinion leaders also are encouraged to attend. We'll keep you posted with more details as they become available.

Statewide Interoperability Executive Council Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) held its quarterly meeting in Helena on Wed., March 12. Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) Chief Chris Christensen chaired the meeting in the absence of Dick Clark, Information Services Technology Division (ITSD) Chief Information Officer. PSSB Communications Manager Scott Bradford gave a presentation on state and federal funding sources as well as an update on current projects.

Interoperability Montana (IM) Governance Committee Chair Bill Fleiner provided a brief update on the status of the Enterprise Planning Process



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(EPP), which deals with state agency funding requests to the 2009 legislature. Glendive Police Chief and IM Project Directors Chair Alan Michaels presented a progress report on the IM Project that reviewed the site development process, system design, infrastructure build out and governance.

Tri-Lake Fire Department Chief, Bob Drake, gave an interesting presentation the advantages and limitations of Lewis and Clark County's trunking radio system during last summer's fire season. Chief Drake emphasized the multi-tier approach to communication plans and operations, which includes trunking, conventional interface and mutual-aid simplex channels.

Assistant US Attorney Betsy Horsman updated the group the April 16 meeting in Lethbridge, AB of the Western Border Interoperability Working Group. She also described plans for a cross border training exercise that will take place in Sept.

The next SIEC meeting will be on Wed., June 11 in Helena at a location to be announced.

South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium (SCMIC) met in White Sulfur Springs on Thurs., March 13. Board Chair Peggy Glass began the meeting with county reports.

Kerry O'Connell, Sweet Grass County, reported that almost all easements for the Grey Cliff site will be completed by the end of April. Steve Digiovanna, Madison County, reported that he is working on site agreements for Virginia City (VC) Pass. He just obtained accurate site coordinates so that certain FAA forms can be completed. Ben Hess, Gallatin County, reported that he is working on approvals for antenna placement on the Kenyon Water Tank site.

Project Director Kerry O'Connell presented a report on the last Interoperability Montana Project Director's (IMPD) meeting. She reported that a six-month extension was received on the state's FY05 Homeland Security funds until Sept. 30. Discussion took place about frequencies, insurance, the retreat, outreach and education, and staffing. The IMPD also reviewed the RFP for project management. She also brought consortium members up to date on the rationale for having a network security plan, which is required by the federal government. A draft should be available at the next IMPD meeting. She

also reviewed highlights from the last IM Technical Committee meeting. She solicited nominations for the 2nd Vice Chair position on the IMPD.

Due to schedule conflicts during the month of April, the next face-to-face SCMIC meeting will be held on Wed., May 14 at the Madison Valley Bank in Ennis with the possibility of a conference call during the month of April.

Upcoming Meetings

March 18

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee

Helena • 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Northrop Grumman Offices,
2401 Colonial Drive

March 20

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Chamber of Commerce Conf. Rm.; 1000 George St.

March 26

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)

Miles City • 10:00 am

4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds, Old Highway 10

March 27

Big Sky 11 Consortium

Billings • 10:00 am

Location to be announced

March 31

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee

Helena • 9:00 am - Noon

Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive

Governance Committee

Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

April 1

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

April 2

Fleet Mapping Sub-Committee

Helena • 9:00 am

Law Enforcement Center, 221 Breckenridge

April 2 (Tentative)

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)

Great Falls • 10:00 am

Wheat Building; 750 6th Street SW

April 3

Northern Tier (NTIP)

Havre • 9:00 am

Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

